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# GEOGRAPHY

AND

HISTORY OF THE COUNTIES, CHIEF TOWNS, CITIES,  
ISLANDS, CAPES, RIVERS, MOUNTAINS, LAKES,  
BAYS; ALSO, OF THE SOIL, CLIMATE,  
PRODUCT, MINES, AND CURIOSI-  
TIES OF IRELAND.

TO WHICH IS ADDED A

## SHORT HISTORY OF IRELAND.

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BY THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

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CINCINNATI:

JOHN P. WALSH, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,  
170 SYCAMORE STREET.

1859.

1871-72

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170 SYCAMORE STREET.  
1859.

ENTERED according to Act of Congress, on the 25th day of January, 1859, by  
**JOHN P. WALSH,**  
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern  
District of Ohio.

## BOUNDARIES.

N. W. and S., the Atlantic Ocean; E., St. George's Channel and the Irish Sea.

It is situated between  $51^{\circ} 19'$  and  $55^{\circ} 23'$  N. lat.; and between  $5^{\circ} 19'$  and  $10^{\circ} 28'$  W. long. Its greatest length is 306 miles; breadth, 182. Superficial content, 31,874 sq. miles, or 20,379,608 acres. Population, 8,205,382.

Ireland is divided into 4 provinces, which are subdivided into 32 counties, 252 baronies, and 2,348 parishes.

### COUNTIES.

*Ulster*.—Donegal; Derry; Antrim; Tyrone; Down; Armagh; Monaghan; Fermanagh; Cavan.

*Leinster*.—Longford; West Meath; East Meath; Louth; Dublin; Kildare; King's County; Queen's County; Wicklow; Wexford; Carlow; Kilkenny.

*Munster*.—Tipperary; Waterford; Cork; Kerry; Limerick; Clare.

*Connaught*.—Galway; Roscommon; Mayo; Sligo; Leitrim.

*Ulster, Nine Counties.*

<i>Counties &amp; ct'y towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population</i>
DONEGAL	Mountains, bogs, minerals	289,149
<i>Donegal</i>	Annals of 4 Masters, 1631	830
Ballyshannon*	Salmon and eel fishery	3,735
DERRY	Barley, flax & linen trade	222,012
<i>Derry</i>	A long siege, 1689	19,620
Coleraine	Fine linens, called <i>Cole-raines</i>	5,752
ANTRIM	Coal, bog and limestone	225,615
<i>Belfast</i>	Trade and commerce	53,287
Carriekfergus†	A celebrated castle	8,698
Lisburn	Linen, muslin & cambric	5,218
Ballymena	Brown linen, bleach fields	4,063
TYRONE	M'tains, bogs, & fertility	304,468
<i>Omagh</i>	Military head-quarters	2,211
Dungannon	Seat of the kings of Ulster	3,515
Annylaughan	B'th-place of Abp. Hughes, of New York, and the patriotic O'Neills	
Down	Agriculture, manufacture	352,012
<i>Downpatrick</i>	Shrines of Sts. Patrick, &c	4,784
Newry	Export of provisions and live stock.	13,065

\* *Ballyshannon* is so called from the Irish word *Baile*, a town, a name incorporated with numerous parishes, towns, villages, and country residences throughout Ireland.

† *Carriekfergus* derives its name from *Carraig*, a rock, on which the old castle is built, and from a king named Fergus, who is said to have been drowned near it. The kindred names, *Carriek-on-Suir*, *Carriek-on-Shannon*, &c., are easily understood.

<i>Counties &amp; ct'y towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
Newtonards	Manufac. diaper & muslin	4,442
Donaghadee	Scottish packet station	2,986
Bangor*	Abbey founded by St. Comgall	2,741
ARMAGH	Apples, ( <i>the Orchard of Ireland</i> )	220,134
<i>Armagh</i> †	Metropolitan see	9,189
Lurgan	Manuf. damasks & cambric	2,842
MONAGHAN	Agricult., mountains, bogs	195,536
<i>Monaghan</i>	Ruins of an old abbey	3,848
Clones‡	1st mitred Ab't in Ireland	2,381
FERMANAGH	Mountains, bogs & lakes	149,763

\* *Bangor*, anciently *Beanchor*, signifies *Blessed Choir*, a name expressive of a part of the avocations of the religious who inhabited this place, and who are said to have amounted, at one time, to 3,000. The school of Bangor was one of the most eminent of its time; it was resorted to by numbers of young persons of distinction, from various parts of Europe, and, according to some historians, when King Alfred founded the university of Oxford, he sent to the great school of Bangor for professors. It was at Bangor the great St. Columbanus was educated; and here, also, that Cormac, king of Leinster, spent the latter part of his life.

† *Armagh* is derived from *Ard*, high, and *Magh*, a plain or field, the city being built upon an eminence. Armagh was long celebrated for its monastery and school, founded by St. Patrick in 445. It is said, that 7,000 students were at one time congregated in this seminary.

‡ *Clones*, anciently *Cluain-Inis*, "the island of retreat," it having been nearly surrounded by water. The term *clon* is also applied to churches, which, in many instances, have been erected in retired places; as Cloyne, Clonfert, &c.

<i>Counties &amp; c'ty towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
<i>Enniskillen</i> *	Fish and water fowl	6,116
CAVAN	Minerals & bleach greens	227,933
<i>Cavan</i>	Burial-place of Gen. O'Neill, 1649.	2,931
Cootehill	Excellent linen market	2,178

*Leinster, Twelve Counties.*

LONGFORD	Most central co. in Ireland	112,558
<i>Longford</i>	Flax & linen man'factures	4,354
Granard	Good corn market	2,058
Ballymahon	Great cattle fairs	1,081
Edgeworthston	Birth-pl. Abbe Edgeworth	1,001
W. MEATH	Rich pasture land	136,872
<i>Mullingar</i>	An excellent wool market	4,295
Athlone	Called <i>centre of Ireland</i>	11,406
Kilbeggan	Extensive corn trade	1,895
MEATH†	Corn, sheep and cattle	176,826
<i>Trim</i>	Ruins of several Abbeys	3,282
Navan	Once famed for its Abbey	4,416
Kells†	Round tower, 90ft. high	4,326

\* *Enniskillen* is so called from the Irish word *Inis*, (Lat. *insula*,) an island, the town of Enniskillen being built upon an island, in the Erne; hence the signification of such names as have the prefix *Inis* or *Ennis* incorporated with them.

† *Meath*.—In this county, about 5 miles S. E. from Navan, is the ancient *Tarah*, or, as it is sometimes called, *Teagh mor*, “the great house,” where the Irish triennial parliaments were held, until the end of the sixth century.

† *Kells*.—The memorable synod of the Irish Clergy, at which Cardinal Paparo distributed the four palls to the Archbishops, was held here in 1152.



<i>Counties &amp; c'ty towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
LOUTH	Smallest co. in Ireland	124,846
<i>Drogheda</i>	Extensive corn trade	17,365
Dundalk	Export corn, butter, eggs	10,078
Carlingford	Excellent oysters	1,319
DUBLIN	Neat villas & fine demesnes	380,167
<i>Dublin</i>	Splendor of its pub. build. Birth-place of the Most Rev. brothers Kenrick, of Baltimore and St. Louis	265,316
Kingstown	Superior granite	8,000
Balbriggan	Muslin & stocking manuf.	3,016
Clontarf	Victory of Boromhe, 1014	3,314
Swords	Round tower, 73ft. high	2,537
KILDARE	Most level co. in Ireland	108,424
<i>Athy</i>	A good corn market	4,494
<i>Naas</i>	Seat of kings of Leinster	3,808
Maynooth	College, founded 1795	2,053
Castle-Dermot	Ancient seat of the O'Dermots	1,385
Kildare*	Religious ruins, r'nd tower	1,753
KINGS Co.†	Woods, bog & limestone	144,225

\* *Kildare*.—Near this town is the far-famed *Curragh*, a race-course of about 5,000 acres, sometimes called the *New-market of Ireland*. In this neighborhood are bred the best horses in the country.

† *King's County*.—On the banks of the Shannon, in this county, is situated *Clonmacnois*, anciently *Cluain-Mac Nois*, or the "Retreat of the Sons of the Noble," a name it obtained from the celebrity of its monastery and schools, which attracted numbers of the nobility to study in its halls. Many of the Irish kings and princes are here interred. Besides

<i>Counties &amp; c'ty towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
<i>Tullamore</i>	An excellent corn market	6,342
<i>Birr</i>	The O'Carroll feuds	6,594
<i>Banagher</i>	Horse and cattle fairs	2,636
<i>Philipstown</i>	Old seat of O'Connors	1,454
<i>QUEEN'S Co.</i>	Coal, bog & limestone	145,851
<i>Maryborough</i>	Hd.-qrs. of constabulary	3,220
<i>Mountmellick</i>	Cotton & woollen manuf.	4,597
<i>Abbeyleix</i>	Lace manufactory	5,485
<i>Portarlington</i>	An excellent spa	3,091
<i>Montrath</i>	Cotton, stuff & oil manufac.	2,593
<i>WICKLOW</i>	Exquisite scenery	121,557
<i>Wicklow</i>	Export of lead and corn	2,472
<i>Arklow</i>	A bridge of 19 arches	4,383
<i>Bray</i>	Trout fishery	3,656
<i>Baltinglass</i>	Woollen & linen manuf.	1,619
<i>WEXFORD</i>	Corn and pasture	182,713
<i>Wexford</i>	Woollen cloth & provis.	10,673
<i>Enniscorthy</i>	Agricultural produce	5,955
<i>New Ross</i>	Trade with America, &c.	5,011
<i>CARLOW</i>	Corn, butter, & minerals	81,988
<i>Carlow</i>	College & public b'ld'ngs	9,114
<i>Leighlinb'idge</i>	*Ruins of <i>Black and White</i> <i>Castles</i>	2,035

the great monastery, cathedral, and schools, it is said that 10 churches, built by neighboring princes, with two round towers, &c., stood withing the surrounding walls. This place is called *the Iona of Ireland*.

\* Near this village is *Old Leighlin*, distinguished in ecclesiastical history for its religious establishments and extensive schools. The fame which this place had acquired for piety and learning attracted such multitudes of students and

<i>Counties &amp; ct'y towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
Tullow	Best corn market in the co.	1,929
KILKENNY	Agriculture and dairies	193,686
<i>Kilkenny</i>	Coal, marble, woollens	23,741
Callan	Great antiquity	6,111
Thomastown	Extensive flour mills	3,054
Castlecomer	Superior coal mines	2,436
Urlingford	Large cattle fairs	2,400
Graigie	Ancient castle and abbey	2,130
Ballyragget	Birth-pl. of Abp. Butler	1,629

*Munster, Six Counties.*

TIPPERARY	Coal, corn, and cattle	402,563
<i>Clonmel</i>	Corn, bacon, and butter	15,134
Carrick	Largest town unrepres'ted	9,626
Nenagh	Old castle, <i>Nenagh Round</i>	8,446
Thurles	Holycross Abbey	7,084
Cashel	Seat of kings of Munster	6,971
Tipperary	Corn and butter market	6,970
Roscrea	The Shire of St. Cronan	5,512
Cahir*	Ancient castle and abbey	3,408
WATERFORD	Birth-place of Archbishop Walsh, of Halifax	177,054
<i>Waterford</i>	Great export of provisions	28,821
Dungarvan	Extensive fishery	6,519

religious persons to its halls, that the country, for miles around, was usually denominated *the territory of saints and scholars*. The number of religious alone is stated to have been 1500.

\* *Cahir*, or *Cathair*, is the Irish term for *city*; hence the derivation of the numerous names having *Cahir* incorporated with them.

<i>Counties &amp; ct'y towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population</i>
Lismore*	Anc't monastery and school	2,894
Tramore†	A neat sea-bathing village	2,224
Cappoquin	A Cistercian abbey	1,319
CORK	Largest co. in Ireland. Birth place of Bishop England	810,732
<i>Cork</i>	Great export of provisions	107,016
Bandon	Cotton and flour mills	12,617
Youghal	Irish potato first planted here	9,608
Kinsale‡	A productive fishery	7,312
Fermoy	Extensive barracks	6,916
Cove (lately named Queenstown)	Birth-place of Bishop O'Connor, of Pittsburgh	6,966

\* *Lismore* is derived from the Irish *Lios*, a habitation, and *Mor*, great, that is, "the great habitation or monastery," which St. Carthagh founded here in 633. The schools of Lismore were celebrated all over Europe; thither multitudes of foreigners thronged to study religion, science, and literature, not only from England, but from the most distant parts of the continent, all of whom were most cheerfully received, and "supplied *gratis*," as Ven. Bede testifies, "with food, books, and instruction." King Alfred is said to have received his education here.—Lismore, at one time, contained twenty parish churches.

† *Tramore* is a contraction of the Irish words, *Traigh-mor*, signifying "the great strand;" hence *Tralee*, "the strand of the Lee," &c.

‡ *Kinsale* is supposed to have derived its name from *Cean*, a head, and *Saile*, the sea; either in reference to the promontory called *Old Head*, which stands out in the sea, or the head of the harbor itself, where the town is situated; hence *Kinvara*, which literally signifies "head of the sea;" *vara*, or *mara*, being the genitive case of *muir*, another name for sea.

<i>Counties &amp; c'ty towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
Mallow	Mineral waters. Birth-place of the Most Rev. and Very Rev. brothers Purcell, of Cincinnati.	5,229
Bantry	A fine bay and scenery	4,216
Doneraile	Beautiful scenery	2,652
Cloyne	Round tower, 102ft. high	2,228
KERRY	Small cattle, ( <i>Kerry cows</i> )	263,126
<i>Tralee</i>	Mineral springs	9,352
Killarney	Lakes and scenery	7,910
Dingle	Most west'ly town in Irel'd	4,327
Cahiriveen*	Birth-pl. of D. O'Connell, Esq	1,192
Ardfert	Once, seat of a university	929
LIMERICK	Pasture, corn, and fruit	315,355
<i>Limerick</i>	Siege and treaty, 1690-1	66,354
Rathkeale	Horse and cattle fairs	4,972
Adare	Excellent cider	4,364
Askeaton	Magnificent ruins	1,515
Kilmallock	The <i>Irish Baalbec</i>	1,213
CLARE†	Excellent horses	258,322
<i>Ennis</i>	A fine Gothic abbey	7,111
Kilrush	Provisions and flag-stones	3,996
Ennistymon	Ancient seat of O'Briens	1,430
Killaloe‡	Salmon and eel fishery	1,411

\* Situated on *Valentia Bay*, Atlantic Telegraph Station.

† *Clare* was anciently called *Thomond*, that is, North Munster, in reference to *Desmond*, or South Munster, *Ormond*, or East Munster, &c.

‡ *Killaloe*.—Near this town stood the ancient *Kinkorā*, the palace of Brian Boromhe, monarch of Ireland, and of his immediate successors.

*Connaught, Five Counties.*

<i>Counties &amp; c'ty towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
GALWAY	Greatest number of lakes	414,684
<i>Galway</i>	Extensive fisheries and American packet station	33,120
Tuam	Cathedral and College	6,883
Loughrea	Abundance of poultry	6,285
Ballinasloe	Large cattle fairs	4,615
ROSCOMMON	Corn, bog and pasture	249,630
<i>Roscommon</i> *	Shrine of St. Coman	3,306
Athlone†	Repeated sieges, (1690–1)	11,406
Boyle	Trout of excellent quality	3,433
Elphin	B'th-pl. Oliver Goldsmith	1,507
MAYO	Bogs, lakes and pasturage	365,328
<i>Castlebar</i>	A good linen market	6,373
Ballina	Valuable salmon fishery	5,510
Westport	Cotton manuf. and bleaches	4,448
Newport	Salmon, grouse & red-deer	1,235
Killala	Occupied by the French, 1798	1,125

\* *Roscommon*, which signifies “Coman’s Marsh,” is supposed to have derived its name from an abbey, founded here in a low situation by St. Coman, about the year 540. *Ros* also signifies “pleasant or agreeable,” and is to be understood in this sense in many of the Irish names of which it is the *prefix*.

† *Athlone* is partly in Roscommon and partly in West Meath; hence the reason of its being mentioned in both counties. *Athlone* derives its name from the Irish *Ath*, a ford, and *Luath*, or *Luan*, swift, probably in reference to the *rapids*, at the bridge over the Shannon.

About six miles from Athlone, in West Meath, is the interesting village of *Auburn*, the subject of Goldsmith’s beautiful poem, “The Deserted Village.”

<i>Counties &amp; c'ty towns.</i>	<i>Remarkable for.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
SLIGO	Bullocks of the largest size	171,765
<i>Sligo</i>	Corn, butter & salmon	15,152
Ballymote	Encircled with beautiful hills	875
LEITRIM*	Numerous herds of cattle	141,524
<i>Carrick-on-Shannon</i>	Good situation for trade	1,870
Manor-Hamilton	Ruins of an ancient castle	1,348
Leitrim	Formerly a place of importance	274

ISLANDS.—*Rathlin*, North of Antrim; *North Isles of Arran*, West of Donegal; *Achil*, West of Mayo; *Clare Island*, at the mouth of Clew Bay; *South Isles of Arran*, in Galway Bay; *Valentia*, West of Kerry.

CAVES.—*Malin-Head*, in Donegal; *Fair-Head*, in Antrim; *Howth-Head*, in Dublin; *Wicklow-Head*, in Wicklow; *Carnsore-Point*, in Wexford; *Cape-Clear and Mizzen-Head*, in Cork; *Loop-Head*, in Clare; *Slyne-Head*, in Galway; *Achil-Head*, and *Urris-Head*, in Mayo.

MOUNTAINS.—The *Mourne-Range*, in Down; the

\* The counties of Leitrim and Cavan, with part of Fermanagh, comprised the ancient *Briefne*, the chief lords of which were the O'Ruarks, a name memorable in Irish history.

*Slieve-Bloom*, or *Ard-na-h'Erin*\* mountains, in which the Suir, Nore, and Barrow, take their rise; the *Wicklow Mountains*, in Wicklow; *Nephtin* and *Croagh-Patrick*, in Mayo; *Magillicuddy's Reeks*, *Carran-Tual*, and *Mangerton*, in Kerry.

BAYS.—*Carrickfergus Bay*, or *Belfast-Lough* between Antrim and Down; *Strangford Bay*, in Down; *Carlingford Bay*, between Down and Louth; *Dundalk Bay* in Louth; *Dublin Bay*; *Bantry* and *Dunmanus Bays*, South-West of Cork; *Dingle* and *Tralee Bays*, in Kerry; *Galway*, between Clare and Galway; *Clew Bay*, *Black-sod Bay*, and *Killala Bay*, in Mayo; *Donegal Bay*, *Lough Swilly*, and *Lough Foyle*, in Ulster.

LAKES.—*Lough Neagh*,† between Antrim and Tyrone; *Lough Erne*, in Fermanagh; *Loughs Allen*, *Ree*, and *Derg*, through which the Shannon flows; *Lough Conn*, in Mayo; *Lough Mask*, between Mayo and Galway; *Lough Corrib*, in Galway; and the *Lakes of Killarney*, in Kerry.

RIVERS.—The *Foyle*, between Donegal and Derry, falls into Lough Foyle; the *Bann* flows through Lough Neagh, and separates Derry from Antrim; the *Lagan* flows into Belfast Lough; the *Boyne*, into Drogheda Bay; the *Liffey*, into Dub-

\* *Ard-na-h'Erin*, that is, “the height of Ireland,” a name this mountain obtained from a popular opinion that it was the most elevated point in the island.

† *Lough*, or *Loch*, is the term used in Ireland and Scotland for lake—*Loch*, in Irish, signifying a lake, or an arm of the sea.



lin Bay; the *Slaney*, into Wexford Harbor; the *Suir*, with its tributaries, the *Barrow* and *Nore* falls into Waterford Harbor; the *Blackwater* falls into Youghal Harbor; the *Lee*, into Cork Harbor; the *Shannon*, the largest river in the United Kingdom, separates Clare from Limerick, and falls into the Atlantic Ocean.

CHIEF TOWNS.—*Dublin*, the capital of Ireland, is divided by the Liffey into nearly two equal parts; is the second city in the United Kingdom, and, in point of external beauty, is surpassed by few others. Previous to the Union, Dublin contained a population of 300,000, and was the constant residence of two hundred and seventy-one spiritual and temporal peers, and three hundred members of the House of Commons. At present the population is only 204,000; and only 6 peers, and from 15 to 20 members of Parliament, have settled dwellings within its precincts. The corporal municipal reform came into operation in 1841, and Daniel O'Connell, Esq., M.P., was elected Lord Mayor of Dublin, 1st November of that year.

*Cork*, the second city in Ireland, derives its name from the Irish word *Corcach*, a marsh; it stands on the Lee, which pours its waters through several channels into the harbor, which is one of the finest in Europe. The exports and imports are considerable. The scenery on the river, and around the city is extremely beautiful.

*Limerick*, on the Shannon, ranks next to Cork. It consists of the old and new town, connected by

an elegant modern bridge. Its exports amount to 75,000 tons annually. It is famous for the sieges it sustained against King William in 1690-1.

*Belfast*, the principal town of Ulster, situated on the West side of the Lagan, has, within the last fifty years, risen to great importance. In commerce, its exports and imports are very extensive; its literary and scientific institutions are most respectable.

*Waterford*, situated on the South bank of the Suir, is remarkable for its fine harbor; the depth of water in the river, up to its splendid quay, is so great that steamers can sail at low water. It has long been celebrated for its manufacture of white glass; and its exports in cattle and provisions are considerable. One of the longest wooden bridges in Ireland connects it with county of Kilkenny.

The other towns of note are: Galway, Kilkenny, Wexford, Sligo, Londonderry, and Clonmel.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.—The climate of Ireland is, perhaps, milder than that of any other country of equal extent in the same latitude. It cannot be called a mountainous country, though many of its eminences are of considerable elevation. The soil is exceedingly fertile; the atmosphere is more humid than that of England, owing, probably, to the prevailing Westerly winds from the Atlantic. By preserving a perpetual verdure, it has obtained the appellation of the *Green*, or *Emerald Isle*.

PRODUCE.—The chief productions are corn, flax, and potatoes in great abundance; the latter being the principal food of the lower classes. The quan-

tity of cultivated land exceeds, in proportion, that of England. The potato-garden, or corn-field, often ascends to the very summits of considerable heights. The bogs are numerous and extensive, occupying in many instances the sites of ancient forests, the remains of which are still dug out in large quantities. The turf, or peat, procured from them, is the fuel most in use throughout the country.

One of the principal exports is fine linen, which is brought to great perfection. The quantity sent to England, in 1825, was 52,559,678 yards. The other chief exports are lawns, cambrics, yarn, and wool; vast numbers of black cattle, pigs, green hides, ox and cow-horns, leather, beef, pork, butter, tallow, etc. The total value of exports, in 1824, was £6,400,000.

ZOOLOGY.—The animals peculiar to the island are, the large red-deer of the Killarney mountains, and the Irish grey-hound, or wolf-dog, which is now nearly extinct; it is alluded to in almost every old poetic legend, or heroic ballad of the country. The coasts, lakes, and rivers, abound with fish. The exemption of the country from serpents and all venomous reptiles is well known.

MINES.—The minerals are: iron, lead, silver, copper, and coal of a peculiar kind, useful in manufactures. Large masses of native gold have been found in Wicklow. There are quarries of fine marble, porphyry, slate, freestone, etc., in various places.

CURIOSITIES.—Many curious round towers of great antiquity are found in several parts of the island. The origin and use of these towers have hitherto baffled the researches of antiquaries. The numerous venerable ruins of churches and monasteries, and of castles built from the thirteenth to the 16th century, give a romantic and picturesque appearance to the country. The most remarkable natural curiosities are, the collection of basaltic columns, eight miles from Coleraine, on the coast of Antrim, called the “Giant’s Causeway;” the extensive caverns, near Mitchelstown, county Cork, and in other places; the exquisite scenery of the county Wicklow; the Killarney lakes and mountains; and the majestic cliffs and numerous caverns, that line the Western coast, interspersed with sandy bays, which afford safe and agreeable accommodation for bathers.

HISTORY.—The name, Ireland, appears to be a Gothic adaptation of the native term, *Erin*. The island was known to the Greeks by the name of *Juverna*, about two centuries before the Christian era; and to the Romans, by that of *Hibernia*, in the time of Cæsar. It was originally governed by a number of independent native princes, subject, however, to one supreme monarch, who held his court and council at *Tarah*, in East Meath. The country suffered much from various invasions of the Vikingr, or sea kings, of the Danes, and other Northern pirates, between the eighth and eleventh centuries. They were finally overthrown, and their power annihilated, at the famous Battle of Clontarf, near Dublin, in 1014. The most re-

markable amongst the native monarchs, previous to the arrival of the English, were, Ollamh Fodhla, celebrated for the wisdom of his laws and government, and Brian Bhoróime, whose character justly entitles him to rank with a Theodosius, an Alfred, or a Canutus. His death, as glorious as his life was exemplary, occurred at the battle above-named.

The first invasion of the English took place in 1169, and was followed in 1172 by the arrival of Henry II., who took the title of Lord of Ireland. The English monarchs did not assume the title of King of Ireland, until the reign of the tyrannical Henry VIII. After that period, Ireland continued annexed to the crown of England, but possessed a distinct parliament until 1800, when the legislatures of both countries were incorporated by the act of Union. From the reign of Henry VIII. down to the present time, the principal events have been, the unsuccessful efforts made to suppress the Catholic religion, by enactments directed against life and property; the repeated oppressions on one side, and insurrections on the other; the invasion and tyrannies of Cromwell and his followers; the calamitous battle of Athenry; the struggles made on behalf of James II., and the heroic stand made at Limerick, against the arms of his successor, William III.; the declaration of Irish Legislative Independence, by the British Parliament, in 1782; the attempts to shake off the English yoke in 1798; the act of Union, already referred to, in 1800; and the act of Emancipation, by which the Catholics of both countries were admitted to an

equality of civil rights and privileges with their Protestant fellow-countrymen in 1829. Some reserves, however, are still made in deference to prejudices, which it is hoped the progress of intelligence will finally remove. The executive power in Ireland is in the hands of a Lord Lieutenant. The revenue, in 1825, was £3,624,800.

RELIGION.—Until the year of our Lord, 431, Ireland continued in the darkness of paganism, though somewhat less revolting in its practices than that which prevailed at the same period in other parts of Europe. The Irish Druids exercised the two-fold office of priest and poet; and were, by their learning, vastly superior to their continental brethren, who were prohibited to cultivate the use of letters. In the year above-mentioned St. Celestine, Pope, the forty-fourth Bishop of Rome, raised Palladius to the Episcopal dignity, and sent him with several companions, to preach the Gospel in this island. His success was partial; and he died as he was returning to Rome in the following year. He was succeeded in his mission by the celebrated St. Patrick, born A.D. 387, at Boulogne-sur-mer, in France. The labors and success of this great missionery in the conversion of the country, have justly obtained for him the title of *Apostle of Ireland*.

With the sanction of the Holy See, and after having received Episcopal consecration, St. Patrick sailed for Ireland, and landed near Dublin. Not being immediately successful in this quarter, he took shipping again, and, proceeding Northwards,

landed near Strangford, in the county Down. His first convert was a chieftain, named Dicho, who, with his whole family, was baptized, and who bestowed on the Saint a house and lot of ground on which to build a church. The holy Missionary thence directed his steps successively through Leinster, Connaught, and Munster; establishing congregations, founding churches, and ordaining pastors, wherever he arrived, until a general alteration took place in the religious and moral aspect of the whole island. The See of Armagh, of which he was the first Bishop, has ever since retained the honors of the primacy. Having devoted thirty-three years to the great work of conversion, he passed to his eternal reward, at his favorite retreat at Saul, in Ulster, A.D. 465, in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

During the following centuries, the multitude of holy personages who trod in the way which he had taught, both in the ecclesiastical and religious state, was so great, and the sanctity of their lives so eminent, as to merit for their country the appellation of the "Island of Saints." Amongst those whose sanctity was confessed, after their decease, by the universal Church, some of the most eminent were: St. Bridget, Abbess and foundress of many religious houses throughout the island; St. Kevin, Abbot of Glendalough; St. Columbanus, the author of an admired rule, and of many elegant religious pieces in Latin, prose and verse, and the founder of many monastic houses on the continent,—amongst which that of Luxeu, in France, and of

Bobbio, in Italy; St. Columba, Abbot of Icolmkill or Iona, famed for his miracles, and surnamed the "Apostle of the Picts," from the success of his missionary labors in Scotland; St. Malachy, Primate, of whose life an admirable record has been left us from the eloquent pen of St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, where St. Malachy expired; St. Laurence O'Toole, etc. To enumerate the apostolic men whom, during those early ages of fervor, Ireland sent forth to labor for the salvation of souls, in various nations of Europe, would here be out of place. Suffice it to say, that their names and their works are still preserved in many of the countries which reaped the advantages of their holy zeal. Even at the present day, her missionaries are spread over the face of the earth.

But it was not alone for her sanctity, nor for the great number of her children who were enrolled amongst the canonized Saints of the Church, that Ireland at this period was distinguished. It became at the same time the mart of sacred learning and the school of Christendom. The universities of Paris and Pavia owe their origin to the learning and industry of Clement and John, both natives of Ireland. The Irish, since their conversion, have been conspicuous for their devoted attachment to the faith; from which, not all the horrors of sanguinary persecution, nor the blandishments of proselytism, have ever been able to separate the great body of the people; over *seven millions*, out of the eight and a half, composing



the population, are in communion with the Holy and Apostolic See of Rome.

LITERATURE.—The literature of Ireland has claims to a venerable antiquity, the use of letters having been known here long before the Christian era. From Ireland the Anglo-Saxons derived their first enlightenment; and till the thirteenth century, literature in Scotland continued to be the special province of the Irish clergy. The English language is generally understood and spoken throughout the island. The Irish, or Gaelic, is still retained in many parts, particularly in Munster and Connaught. The love of the Irish people for learning is proverbial; yet this was a desire which, until lately, they could not gratify except by stealth, or a sacrifice of principle. Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Ireland, are the only universities in Ireland. The Catholic colleges are: the College of All Hallows; the Royal College of Maynooth, founded by the Irish Parliament in 1795; those of Carlow, Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Thurles, Tuam, Clogher, Clongowes Wood, and Castle-Knock. The seminaries and public schools are exceedingly numerous, and the course of education very extensive. The establishments in which respectable females receive their education, are generally well conducted. Those under the management of religious communities, possess the peculiar advantage of combining religious instruction with every other branch of female education. Ladies of the first rank are educated in those sanctuaries of innocence and

virtue, "who," as a late venerable member of our hierarchy remarks, "in after life, become the instruments of diffusing piety and happiness around them."

There is scarcely a parish without a male and female gratuitous school, under the immediate control of the parish priest, or in connection with the National Board. The Brothers of the Christian Schools have extensive establishments in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Carrick-on-Suir, Dungarvan, Thurles, etc. The Nuns of the Presentation Order, and the Sisters of Charity and of Mercy, are extending branches of their Orders to the principal cities and towns of the country, and attending with maternal tenderness to the moral and physical destitution of thousands of their sex, whose lowly condition particularly requires the aid of religious instruction, to fortify and console them under their many privations.

CHARACTER.—In stature, the Irish are generally above the middle size, are athletic and well formed. They are of quick comprehension, warm-hearted, brave almost to rashness, and remarkable for courtesy and hospitality to strangers. In cheerfulness under privations, and in sprightliness of disposition, they approach nearer to the French than the English or Scotch. There is no country where domestic virtues are more fondly cherished. Ireland can claim as her own a host of men who have distinguished themselves by their learning, their brilliancy of genius and their eloquence.

19 Sept. 1860.





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